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INFORMATION FOR THE MEDICAL COMMUNITY AND THE PUBLIC FROM THE **D.C. BOARD OF MEDICINE**

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HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE TO GET A MEDICAL LICENSE IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA?

Boards of medicine, including the D.C. Board of Medicine, are confronted with two opposing considerations in issuing medical licenses to applicants. The first and most important consideration is to ensure that the applicant has documented all of the education, examination and experience requirements that are required for a license to practice medicine. This consideration is aimed at ensuring that applicants are uniformly judged by standards that protect public health and safety by ensuring that they possess the credentials to practice safely. Review of the application documents, of course, takes time.

A second consideration is to process the applications quickly in order to enable applicants to begin work as quickly as possible; and, in some cases, to bring a unique medical talent to service patients.

The Process

The current application process for the D.C. Board of Medicine involves several steps. The first step is for applicants to

secure an application. Applications are distributed by a contractor, Assessment Systems, Inc. (ASI). ASI can be reached toll free at 1-888-204-6193. ASI mails the application forms to applicants on request.

Applicants then submit the application documents to ASI with the applicable fees. Applicants also cause certain application documents to be sent to ASI from third parties, such as medical school transcripts.

Upon receipt of an application, ASI will enter applicable data on a computer system that can be accessed in the offices of the D.C. Board of Medicine (the "Board"). If all of the required documents are not with the application, ASI will send a deficiency letter to the applicant, advising him or her as to which documents are missing.

Once all required documents are present, ASI sends (by courier) the completed application to the Board's staff for qualitative review. If there is no adverse

information in the application and no issue with respect to required credentials, ASI will be notified by fax to issue a license. The license is then printed and mailed to the applicant. If there is adverse information in the application or there is an issue with respect to credentials, the application is presented for consideration at the next meeting of the Board. The Board will either approve the application, request additional information and/or an interview, or request preparation of a *Notice of Intent to Deny*. This notice lists the reasons that the Board proposes to deny the application. Upon receipt of the notice the applicant has a right to request a hearing.

Time

The time to approve an application is only meaningful with respect to assessing the process from the point that the application is complete. Incomplete applications cannot be processed; and neither the Board nor the staff can control the completion of the application.

Based on a detailed study for November 1997, processing times for medical applications were as follows:

DAYS*

Waiver applicants...9
Examination applicants ..7
Reinstatement applicants ..15
Special item applicants ..19
Average all applicants11

*Days To Print License After
Application Was Complete

The "days" listed above are calendar days. No consideration was given to holidays or weekends.

The vast majority of our applications are waiver applications, applications from people who have already taken an accepted examination. Waiver applicants can expect that their licenses will be mailed in less than ten calendar days on average after completing their applications; assuming, of course, that there is no adverse information (malpractice suit, prior disciplinary record, etc.). Examination applicants take about the same time; although examination applications are complete upon receipt of examination scores as well as other application documents. The other categories of applicants, of necessity, take more time due to the necessity for the Board to consider any issues.

Processing times will be monitored quarterly to ensure that applicants are receiving licenses in a timely manner, once they complete their applications.

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Board offices are located at 614 H Street, N.W., Room 108, Washington, D.C. 20001. The phone number is (202) 727-5365. The fax number is (202) 727-4087. The staff is supervised by James R. Granger, Jr., Executive Director.

Is Your Address Up to Date?

This is a renewal year. The address on your license is the address where your renewal will be sent in the fall. If that is not your current address, there is the distinct possibility that you will not receive a renewal application. To update your address call 1-888-204-6193.

BOARD ORDERS Jan.-Mar. 1998

Yasmin B. Redondo, M.D.: 1/7/98; Five years probation and reporting requirements. Physician failed to

conform to standards of accepted conduct and prevailing practice in a health profession by forging credentials as a board certified pathologist.

Sundiata El-Amin, M.D. aka Cephas Jackson, M.D.; 3/4/98; Licensed revoked and reinstatement denied. Physician practiced without a license; violated a negotiated settlement with the Board; failed to pay a civil fine and failed to conform to standards of acceptable conduct and prevailing practice.

Gerald P. Apollon, M.D.: 3/4/98; License denied. Physician failed to demonstrate achievement of weighted average score of 75 on the FLEX examination as required by D.C. regulations.

Alan Brody, M.D.: 3/4/98; Probation terminated.

Giulio I. Scarzella, M.D.: 3/4/98; Probation terminated